

VREX-0007USAAON00

REMARKS

The amendments herein do not introduce any new matter. It is believed that the claims herein should be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 24-26, 28-35 and 51 remain pending in the application. Applicants have canceled claims 5 and 27. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application.

I. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner states that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that the specification does not disclose the method for creating a micropolarizer comprising removing the first plate and removing the second plate. The Examiner additionally states that the limitation “the materials” in claim 27 has no sufficient antecedent basis.

Applicants have cancelled claims 5 and 27, obviating the claim rejections set forth by the Examiner.

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II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 24-25, 31, 32, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,074,708 to Onishi et al. ("Onishi") or U.S. Patent No. 5,790,221 to Hsieh ("Hsieh").

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 24. The claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Particularly, the claims have been amended to recite the additional intervening step of exposing one of the plates with linearly polarized UV light. The invention is directed to a method for manufacturing micropolarizers employing twisted nematic liquid crystal cells. The step of exposing a plate with linearly polarized UV light aids in properly aligning liquid crystal material for a second exposure, particularly for materials where the alignment is difficult (see Specification page 8).

In contrast, neither Onishi or Hsieh disclose or suggest the use of linearly polarized UV light on a plate for alignment purposes. Onishi is directed to a photoinitiator and discloses conventional liquid crystal device manufacturing. Hsieh is directed to a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal cell with only one orientation process on one plate. Neither Onishi nor Hsieh disclose exposing the plate with linearly polarized UV light.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 24 are allowable over the cited references. Claims 2-4, 25, 31, 32, 34 and 35, by their dependency on amended independent claims 1 and 24, are similarly allowable. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,778,259 to Kitayama et al. ("Kitayama"). The Examiner has additionally rejected claims 26, 28-30 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsieh in view of Onishi. The Examiner states that Onishi does not disclose the predetermined angle of 45 degrees. However, the Examiner states that Kitayama disclose a liquid crystal device with orientation controlling films wherein a predetermined angle between orientation axes of the substrates is set to a range of 30 to 50 degrees. Therefore, the Examiner asserts, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Onishi with the teachings of Kitayama by forming a predetermined angle of 45 degrees between orientation axes of the substrates so as to attain improved contrast for the display.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 24. As mentioned previously, the claims have been amended to recite the step of exposing one of the plates with linearly polarized UV light.

As stated previously, neither Onishi nor Kitayama disclose or suggest exposing one of the plates with linearly polarized UV light. Similarly, Hsieh does not disclose or suggest exposing one of the plates with linearly polarized light. None of the references, either alone or in combination, disclose exposing one of the plates with linearly polarized UV light.


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Therefore, claims 1 and 24 are allowable over the cited references. Claims 11, 26, 28-30, 33, and 51, by their dependency on amended independent claims 1 and 24, are similarly allowable. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6-12, 24-26, 28-35 and 51 are now in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 8, 2003
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